

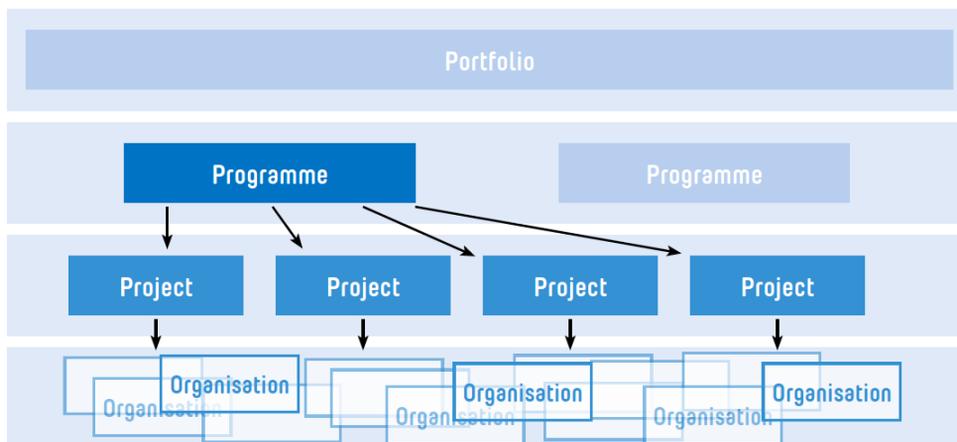


# Coordinating and brokering multi-partner adaptation research: How are we doing?

Blane Harvey, Research Associate

## Setting the Context

Figure 1: Organisational structure of multi-project programmes



## The Case(s) for working together: What research tells us

- Huge work done in defining **why** responding to climate change means research must work differently:
  - Climate change as a “wicked” policy problem drawing on multiple knowledges (APSC 2007, Turnpenny et al 2009)
  - Need for “useable science” for policy and practice (Dilling & Lemos 2011)
  - New brokering roles for researchers (Clark et al 2011)
- As a result, emerging body of literature on how to best support multi-partner research on climate and sustainability (Gonsalves 2014; Turner et al 2016)



## The Case(s) for working together: What funders tell us

- Increased financing commitments + reduced spend on core costs = doing more with less
  - "Results agenda" leads to increased emphasis on demonstrating development impact of research in ever-shorter timeframes.
  - Growth of audit culture (including payment by results) further reinforces demand for consistent central oversight of activities, outputs, outcomes.
  - Development and adaptation research as "global public good" that needs to be shared and used.
- 



## What we know

Evidence from current initiatives

## Surveying experiences of multi-project programmes in climate resilient development

- Six programmes surveyed
- 38 responses – primarily researchers and project managers
- Survey will re-open after today's dialogue and we invite you to take part!



## The influence of knowledge management, brokering and coordination hubs (for better or for worse...)

- Broadly, respondents perceive far more positive than negative influence
- However, no real influence perceived by many in a number of areas:
  - Research design – Bringing hubs on board too late?
  - Learning from other initiatives – Need more hub-to-hub engagement?
  - Research quality
  - Use of evidence – Too soon to tell.
- Greatest negative influence? Management.

*“ Much of the time in running a consortium is spent on processes, partnerships, M&E, reporting and meeting urgent demands, with very little time left to actually do the real work!”*

**Single Greatest Benefit of****Single Greatest Drawback of**

Co

*“Being part of a global programme represented by multiple agencies and members adds a lot of weight when advocating locally and internationally. It also allows one individual consortia to draw on significantly more knowledge, skills, information and learning.”*

*Chance to interact with other groups doing interesting research. Ability to answer a bigger question because different aspects were covered by different teams and in different countries.*

*The scope of the research - all interrelated but still varied enough to have diversity of results to show application in different contexts*

big picture

• Communication

**Single Greatest Benefit of Collaboration****Single Greatest Drawback of Collaboration**

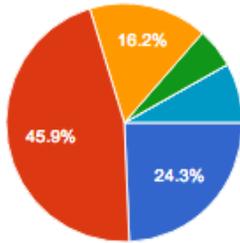
*“Takes a lot of time and effort to work collaboratively across so many institutions and countries, especially considering very few people work on their respective project full-time”*

*“Time spent fighting battles of research design and direction! Institutional and consortia mandates may be in conflict which is difficult to negotiate.”*

*“The fact that we are so different as consortia yet we are given an M & E system which pushes us into a one size fits all framework”*



So... have the benefits of collaboration outweighed its costs?



The benefits have far outweighed the costs	9	24.3%
The benefits have somewhat outweighed the costs	17	45.9%
Neutral (while different, the models offer comparable levels of costs and benefits)	6	16.2%
The costs somewhat outweigh the benefits	2	5.4%
The costs far outweigh the benefits	0	0%
Unsure.	3	8.1%



Be realistic in terms of ambitions. It is hard excel in both science and policy influencing.

Allow more flexibility in budgeting;

Identify and enable champions within the programme and generate incentives for them;

More face to face engagement;

The PI has to be an interdisciplinary researcher so that the thinking permeates throughout the project;

Feed learning back into implementation;

Learning's need to be linked into design of new programmes;

Resourcing the KM component adequately and providing financial support to initiatives that increase learning;

Exchange of junior researchers for write-shops to engage in joint publications;

Allow the consortia to be central to the design of cross consortia approaches.

